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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/650,549	08/28/2003	Christopher L. Oesterling	GP-303944 2760/129	7588
7590	12/27/2004			
General Motors Corporation Legal Staff, Mail Code 482-C23-B21 300 Renaissance Center P.O. Box 300 Detroit, MI 48265-3000			EXAMINER BEAULIEU, YONEL	
			ART UNIT 3661	PAPER NUMBER

DATE MAILED: 12/27/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding...

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/650,549	Applicant(s) OESTERLING, CHRISTOPHER L
Period for Reply	Examiner Yonel Beaulieu	Art Unit 3661

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 04 November 2004.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-21 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-21 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) Information Disclosure Statement (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No _____ Mail Date _____
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) Other. _____

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed 4 November 2004 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant argues (first and second pages of remarks filed 4 November 2004) the Dickerson reference (U.S. 6,697,730) does not teach the provision of car-pooling assistance through a wireless communication system. The Examiner respectfully disagrees. At a minimum, in figure 4 of Dickerson information is exchanged wirelessly.. With regard to obtaining positional information of a moving vehicle, Dickerson further teaches using GPS technology (abstract; col. 4, line 64 – col. 5, line 1; col. 6, lines 42 – 50 and col. 10, lines 45 – 49 at least); as for storing the positional (location) information as a route in a call center database, applicant's attention is directed to Dickerson's col. 14, line 41 – col. 15, line 34.

For at least the above reasons, the rejection is maintained and repeated as follows:

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

The changes made to 35 U.S.C. 102(e) by the American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA) and the Intellectual Property and High Technology Technical Amendments Act of 2002 do not apply when the reference is a U.S. patent resulting directly or indirectly from an international application filed before November 29, 2000. Therefore, the prior art date of the reference is determined under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) prior to the amendment by the AIPA (pre-AIPA 35 U.S.C. 102(e)).

Claims 1 – 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Dickerson (US 6,697,730 B2).

Regarding claims 1, 3, 8, 10, 15, 17, and 21, Dickerson teaches providing car pooling assistance through a wireless communication system (figs. 1 – 4 in conjunction with fig. 9), comprising receiving a user carpool enrollment request (note second top left box in fig. 9; also, note steps 602 – 606 in fig. 7); obtaining positional information of the user's moving vehicle (note third from last box in fig. 9); storing the positional information in a call center database (within "central assigning" section in fig. 9); and sending/transmitting (notifying) at least one available match (best trips and status of assignment; note also steps 504.6 and 504.7 in fig. 6 and step 612 in fig. 7) based upon the request (note top left box in fig. 9).

Regarding claims 2, 9, and 16, Dickerson obtains the positional information through a global positioning system (abstract; col. 4: 65 – col. 5: 15; col. 6: 42 – 54; col. 7: 8 – 19; and col. 10: 30 – 49 at least).

Regarding claims 4 and 11, Dickerson further teaches the positional information comprising time information (GPS constellation involves satellite having a highly accurate clock; Dickerson's abstract provides for GPS technology providing real-time command).

Regarding claims 5 - 7, 12 – 14, and 18 - 20, Dickerson further teaches creating a user profile based upon a match as requested (col. 14: 41 – col. 15: 34 at least; fig. 6).

Conclusion

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Yonel Beaulieu whose telephone number is (703) 305-4072. The examiner can normally be reached on M-R, from 0900-1600.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Thomas BLACK can be reached on (703) 305-8233. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Y. BEAULIEU
AU 3661


YONEL BEAULIEU
PRIMARY EXAMINER